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PATENT SPECIFICATION

645,071

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Article of Furniture incorporating a Rising Buffet or the like.

I, KAREL SMOLIK, a Czechoslovak Citizen, of Fricova, ulice c 2201, Praha, XII, Czechoslovakia, do hereby declare the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement :—

This invention relates to a table or the like of the kind in which a portion of the table top is movable vertically and automatically relatively to the remaining or fixed portion by means of a weight or spring.

A table or the like according to the present invention has a hollow and central support for an annular table top, a central portion adapted to fill the hole in the centre of the annular portion of said top, said central portion being movable vertically relatively to the annular portion, said movable central portion being supported by one element of a cylinder and piston assembly located in the hollow support for the annular table top with the other element of the assembly rigidly connected to the hollow support, the movable central portion of the table top being held in its lowered position by a releasable catch and movable automatically to its raised position upon release of the catch by means of a weight or spring, the rate of such movement being controlled by the dash-pot action of the cylinder and piston assembly.

If desired the dash-pot may operate to control the rate of movement of the vertically movable portion in both directions.

In order that the invention may be clearly understood and carried into effect an embodiment of the same will now be described by way of example by aid of the accompanying drawings in which :—

Fig. 1 is a vertical section of the improved table showing one form of dash-pot.

Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the dash-pot but illustrating a modified means for controlling its action.

Fig. 3 is a section, to an enlarged scale, of the dash-pot control valve shown in Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings the movable

portion 1 of the table or the like comprises a number of shelves arranged as tiers one below the other to act as a buffet with the upper shelf level with the fixed part of the table top when the movable portion is in the normal or lowered position shown. In this position it is held by a catch, not shown, which may be released by operation of a press button, cord, or other means.

A cylinder 3 is fixed on the underside of the lower shelf 1 co-operating with a piston 4 fastened by means of a rod 6 to the base 7. The cylinder 3 may freely slide in a bushing 5 fixed by means of a disc 5¹ or in any other way to the hollow support or to some other stable part of the table. A cable 9 is fastened on the lower part 3¹ of the cylinder 3 and this passes over a guiding roller 8¹ arranged on the disc 5¹. A weight 8 is suspended on the other end of the cable 9. In the upper part of the cylinder 3 or on its front side there is a restricted opening 10.

As shown in Fig. 1 the buffet is in its lowered position and the desk of the table is even with the upper desk of the buffet. The weight 8 is at the same time in its upper position, tending to lift the whole buffet, but is prevented from doing so by the catch not shown in the drawing. By loosening the catch, the buffet is raised by the action of the weight 8. During this operation the pressure of the air above the piston 4 is reduced as the restricted opening 10 or the valve 10¹ allows the air to enter the space above the piston only at a controlled rate and the whole movement is thus constrained to go on at reduced speed. The speed is given either by the area of the opening 10 or the valve 10¹ or by the loose fit of the piston 4 with respect to the cylinder 3. To lower the buffet again into the original position, it is required to exercise pressure with the hand upon the upper desk of the buffet, whereby the downward movement is again slowed down by the action of the piston 4 with respect to the cylinder 3. It is however possible to arrange the valve

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10^1 as a one way valve to enable the downward movement not to be affected by the dash-pot.

It is advantageous to provide the valve 5 10^1 with regulating means enabling the control of the amount of the air passing through it as shown for instance in Figs. 2 and 3, where a threaded bolt 10^{11} is arranged which may be turned to vary the effective area of the opening 10. The bolt 10^{11} is arranged in a dome like support having one or more openings, the total area of which surpasses the area of the opening 10. The bolt 10^{11} is easily accessible as it passes through the desk 1¹ of the buffet.

It is obvious that the action of the dash-pot controls movements of the buffet in both directions unless valve 10^1 is constructed as a one-way valve and said valve or the restricted opening may be associated either with the piston or the cylinder of the dash-pot. The weight 8 may be replaced by the action of a spring. Similarly it is possible to arrange the piston on the sliding part and the cylinder on the stable part.

The arrangement shown on the drawing is only one embodiment of the invention which may serve for any other furniture piece or arrangement used for display of objects of any kind, without exceeding the scope of the invention.

Its main advantage is that by a simple, cheap and reliable way a semi-automatic shifting of a buffet, display stand or similar 35 is enabled, preventing any jerking, that would affect in any way the objects contained there-in or cause the spilling of liquids in

containers. In some cases it is convenient to have the upper shelf marked out as a chess board.

What I claim is :—

1. A table or the like having a hollow and central support for an annular table top, a central portion adapted to fill the hole in the centre of the annular portion of said top, said central portion being movable vertically relatively to the annular portion, said movable central portion being supported by one element of a cylinder and piston assembly located in the hollow support for the annular table top with the other element of the assembly rigidly connected to the hollow support the movable central portion of the table top being held in its lowered position by a releasable catch and movable automatically to its raised position upon release of the catch by means of a weight or spring, the rate of such movement being controlled by the dash-pot action of the cylinder and piston assembly. 45

2. A table or the like according to Claim 1 in which the dash-pot operates to control the movement of the movable portion of the table top in both directions. 50

3. A table or the like of the kind specified as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings. 55

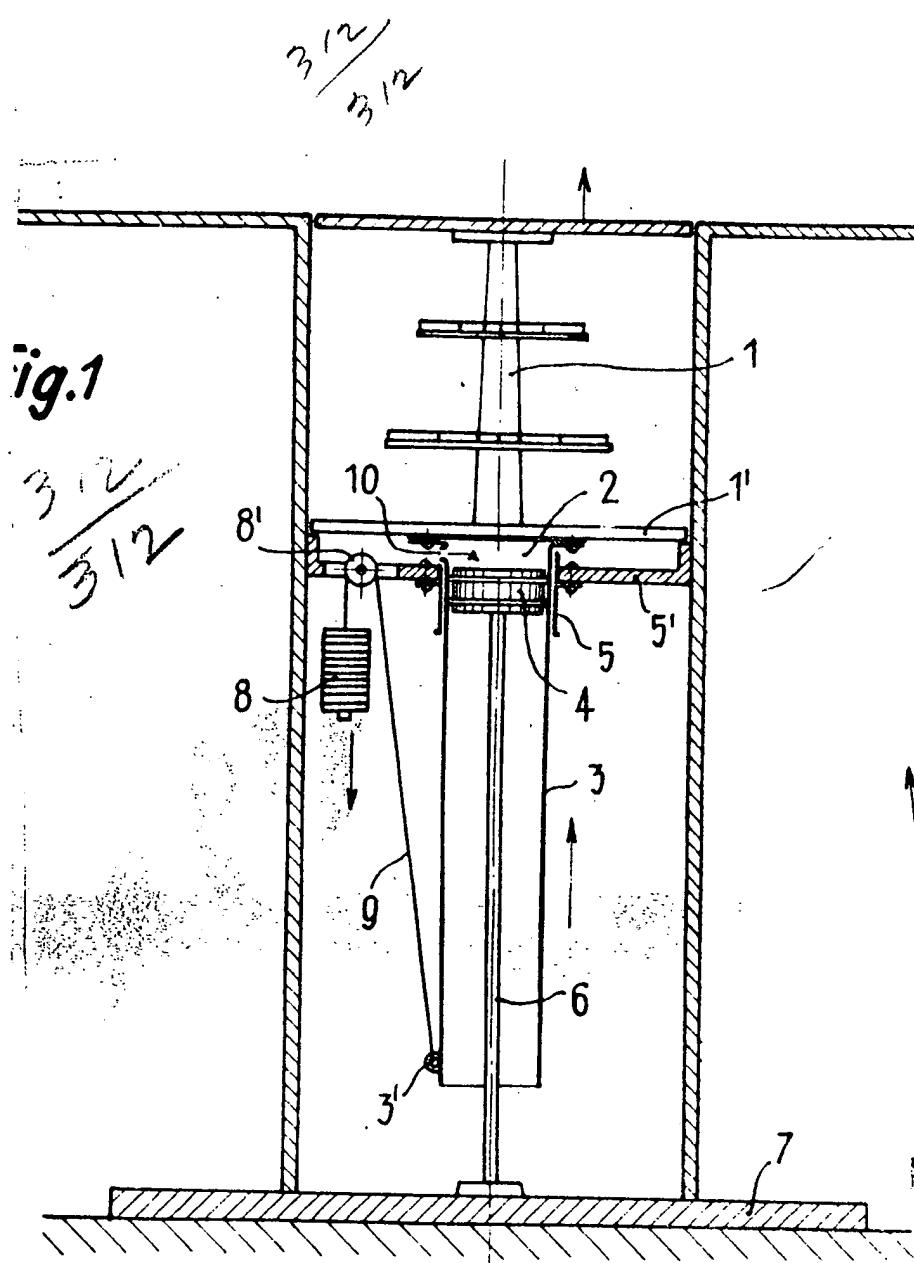
Dated this 16th day of January, 1949.

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For the Applicant.

*Fig. 2*